

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 01476 021524Z

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ACTION AF-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /005 W

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P 021420Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6477

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS MASERU 1476

FOR IBS(AFRICA DIV) IPS IAA IOP

EO 11652: N/A

SUBJ: AFRICAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE CONFERENCE, MASERU

IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "VIEWS FROM MASERU," THE BLOEMFONTEIN, SOUTH AFRICA, "THE FRIEND" NOTED TWO SIGNIFICANT VIEWPOINTS ON POLICIES THE US WILL PURSUE TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA UNDNE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. THE EDITORIAL WAS BASED ON STATEMENTS MADE BY SENATOR DICK CLARK AND CONGRESSMEN ANDREW YOUNG DURING THE COURSE OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE CONFERENCE ON "NEW DIRECTIONS IN AFRICAN AMERICAN RELATIONS" CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN MASERU, LESOTHO.

COMMENTING ON SENATOR CLARK'S STATEMENT, THE EDITORIAL SAID: "ACCORDING TO SENATOR DICK CLARK, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL ADOPT THE HARDLINE POLICY, DESIGNED TO RESTORE AMERICAN CREDIBILITY IN BLACK AFRICA. THE UNITED STATES, HE SAID, SHOULD MAKE A CLEAR COMMITMENT TO MAJORITY RULE AND BE PREPARED TO TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO ENSURE ITS COMING ABOUT. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HE BELIEVED, WOULD WORK TOWARES THE REMOVAL OF THE THREE REMAINING WHITE MAJORITY GOVERNMENTS IN AFRICA."

THE EDITORIAL NOTED THAT A DAY LATER CONGRESSMAN YOUNG SAID THE CARTER POLICY WILL NOT BE A TOUGHER POLICY BUT AN EASIER ONE, THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WILL MAKE IT EASIER TO DO RIGHT SINCE HE UNDERSTANDS RACISM AND HOW PEOPLE CAN CHANGE.

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"DESPITE THE APPARANT DIVERGENCE OF OPINION," THE EDITORIAL

SAID," THE TWO VIEWS ARE MORE PROBABLY COMPLEMENTARY. AS WE HAVE SEEN IN THE PAST THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A SIMPLY DEFINABLE UNITED STATES POLICY. MANY PEOPLE AND AGENCIES HAVE A SAY IN PRONOUNCING AND IMPLEMENTING POLICY, AND THAT POLICY IS LIKELY TO BE OF A GENERAL NATURE. WHAT SHOULD BE CLEAR, HOWEVER, IS THAT, IF MR YOUNG IS CORRECT AND THE US WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO INTRODUCE CHANGES, SENATOR CLARK IS PROBABLY EQUIVALLY CORRECT IN THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO RESIST CHANGE. A BIT OF STICK HERE AND A BIT OF CARROT THERE, IN FACT."

THE EDITORIAL SAID THAT"WHATEVER CHANGES ARE INTRODUCED WILL NEVER SATISFY ALL THIS COUNTRY'S CRITICS" AND THAT SOUTH AFRICANS NEED TO APPRECIATE THAT "ANY CHANGES INTRODUCED ARE INTRODUCED TO MEET THE URGENT REQUIREMENTS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND NOT AS A SLAVE FOR BRUISED AMERICAN EGO AND CREDIBILITY," THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED. BIELAK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MASERU01476
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760446-0487
From: MASERU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761279/aaaacqjz.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <10 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFRICAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE CONFERENCE, MASERU IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "VIEWS FROM MASERU," THE BLOEMFONTEIN, SOUTH AFRICA, 'THE FRIEND' NOTED TWO SIGNIFICANT VI
TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, LT, US, SF, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006